



Alcohol  
and Drug  
Foundation



14 February 2025

The Hon Dan Purdie MP  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: Joint meeting re drug diversion**

Dear Minister,

Thank you for meeting with our representatives to discuss Queensland's life-saving drug diversion program on Tuesday. We appreciate your engagement and willingness to discuss your concerns openly.

Like you, our agencies want to ensure the program is providing safe, evidence-based and best practice supports to our community and does not lead to increased drug use or supply. The program's aim is to save lives and it must deliver.

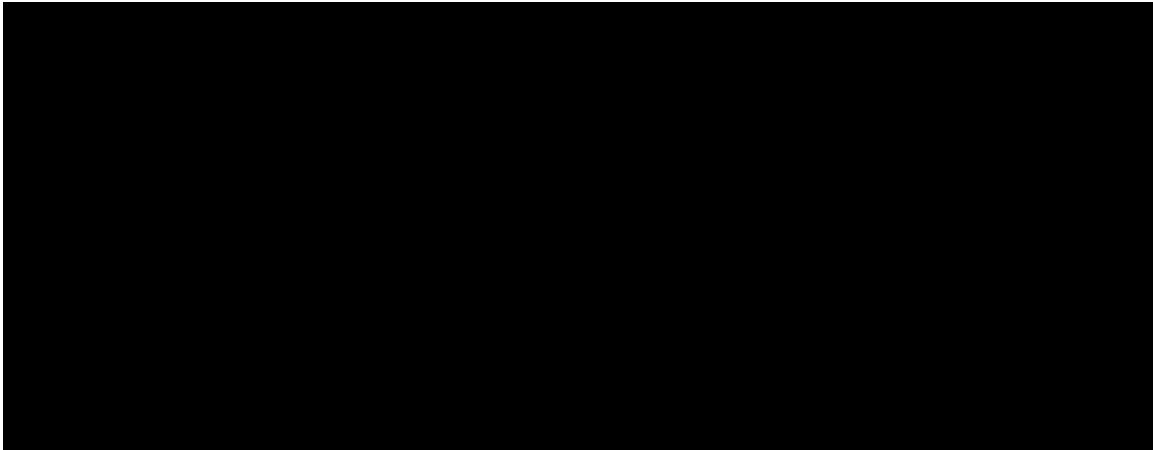
As leaders in medicine, law, nursing and the alcohol and other drug sector, we know the research proves diversion programs are the most effective way to get people the health treatment they need. But we also understand the public and the government need reassurance the program does not increase the risks of drug-related harms.

We respectfully suggest the sensible middle-ground we discussed during the meeting is to review the program once it is evaluated in May 2026. The evaluation will be comprehensive and assess the program's effectiveness in delivering health interventions, cost-savings to police and the justice system and community safety. Once you have that information, you will be equipped to make a prudent decision about its future.

There were also a number of issues you raised during the meeting on which our individual organisations will provide separate information, including the program's exclusions for possession of multiple substances, with criminal histories of supply or trafficking and concurrent offending and about diversion programs in culturally-similar jurisdictions.

We again thank you for your time and please don't hesitate to contact us with any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Erin Lalor AM, Chief Executive Officer, Alcohol and Drug Foundation

Dr Nick Yim, President, Australian Medical Association Queensland

Sarah Beaman, Secretary, Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union

Genevieve Dee, President, Queensland Law Society

Emma Kill, Chief Executive Officer, QuiVAA

Rebecca Lang, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies